

Decision Record - Memorandum
Jumbo Springs Wilderness and Lime Canyon
Wilderness
Final Wilderness Management Plan and
Environmental Assessment

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Southern Nevada District Office
Las Vegas Field Office
Las Vegas, Nevada

October 24, 2013

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Chapter 1. Decision Record

*Jumbo Springs Wilderness and Lime Canyon Wilderness – Final Wilderness
Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*

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1.1. Compliance

The *Proposed Action* alternative of Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2012-0004-EA, is in conformance with officially approved plans of other federal, state, local, and tribal governments to the extent those plans are consistent with federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands. The *Proposed Action* and *No Action* are in conformance with the goals, objectives, and decisions analyzed within the scope of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) *Record of Decision for the Approved Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement* (Las Vegas RMP) (1998).

1.2. Selected Action

It is my decision to approve and implement the Wilderness Management Plan for Jumbo Springs Wilderness and Lime Canyon Wilderness as described in the *Proposed Action* of EA DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2012-0004-EA. The EA evaluates the impact of implementing the *Proposed Action* on a variety of resources including fire management, fish and wildlife, invasive non-native plant species, migratory birds, recreation uses, special status animal species, and wilderness. The Wilderness Management Plan establishes management direction for both Jumbo Springs Wilderness and Lime Canyon Wilderness for a 10-year period.

1.3. Compliance with NEPA:

The *Proposed Action* was analyzed in Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2012-0004-EA. I have determined, pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.2, that the *Proposed Action*, with design features and mitigation measures described in the Finding of No Significant Impact (incorporated herein), will not have any significant detrimental effects on the human environment, and thus does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

1.4. Public Involvement:

A Notice of Proposed Action was mailed to known interested parties in June of 2011. Public scoping workshops were held at the Bunkerville Community Center on June 27, 2011; the Overton Community Center on June 28, 2011; the Mesquite City Hall on June 29, 2011, and at the BLM Southern Nevada District Office on June 30, 2011.

The Draft Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment was available for public review and comment July 26, 2013 through August 24, 2013. Tribal consultation was conducted during the public comment period whereby tribal representatives were notified of the availability of and opportunity to comment on the Draft WMP and EA. Comments on the Draft WMP and EA were received from the Nevada Department of Wildlife. No other public comments were received. Public comments and BLM responses are included in the EA.

1.5. Rationale:

Our decision to authorize the *Proposed Action* does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. In conformance with the Las Vegas Field Office Resource Management Plan, implementation of the *Proposed Action* will provide for the long-term protection and enhancement of the untrammeled and undeveloped character of wilderness, and provide for the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use of the planning area. The *Proposed Action* promotes the enhancement and maintenance of untrammeled character, naturalness, undeveloped, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental/unique values, while also managing other resource uses and values provided for in wilderness legislation. Actions to restore surface disturbances to a natural condition, designate trails and staging areas, provide a sign plan, manage recreation activity, guide wildlife management, and permit scientific research are addressed. The *Proposed Action* also includes measures to protect cultural resources, in addition to addressing monitoring, public outreach, and environmental education to assist resource protection efforts. Wilderness character would be maintained by requiring subsequent site-specific NEPA and Minimum Requirement Decision Guidelines analysis for additional actions, as necessary.

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation will be maintained under the *Proposed Action*. Measures to maintain naturalness by preventing the introduction and establishment of noxious and non-native invasive weeds are addressed. Actions to minimize negative impacts from small—scale surface disturbances and impacts on cultural resources, are evaluated. Scenic qualities, naturalness, and solitude will be maintained.

A *No Action* alternative was considered. Since no unresolved conflicts involving alternative uses of resources or options offering meaningful differences in environmental impacts were identified during the course of this analysis, the range of the two alternatives was considered to be sufficient.

1.6. Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4 and Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days of the decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10, for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the IBLA, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the IBLA and the appropriate office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof in demonstrating that a stay should be granted.


Standards for obtaining a stay

Except as otherwise provided for by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.

2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and;
4. Whether the public interest favors granting a stay.

1.7. Authorizing Official:



Timothy Z. Smith
District Manager, Southern Nevada District

10/24/13

Date

1.8. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact.

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